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Fitch downgrades UBS; puts EU, US banks on watch

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Fitch ratings agency downgraded Swiss bank UBS yesterday while putting 12 other major European and US banks on negative ratings watches, amid worries over fragile global growth.

While UBS was dropped one notch on the basis that Fitch no longer believes the Swiss government is an absolute guarantor of its stability, the other banks were cited for

heavy reliance on short-term funding and volatile earnings in a period of great market stress.

Among the 12 banks were BNP Paribas, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Societe Generale.

Earlier yesterday Fitch downgraded two British banks as well, citing the reduced likelihood of further government support.

US officials brief China, Russia, Turkey on alleged plot

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States has sent top officials to China, Russia and Turkey to brief counterparts there about the alleged Iranian plot to kill the Saudi ambassador in Washington, a US official said yesterday.

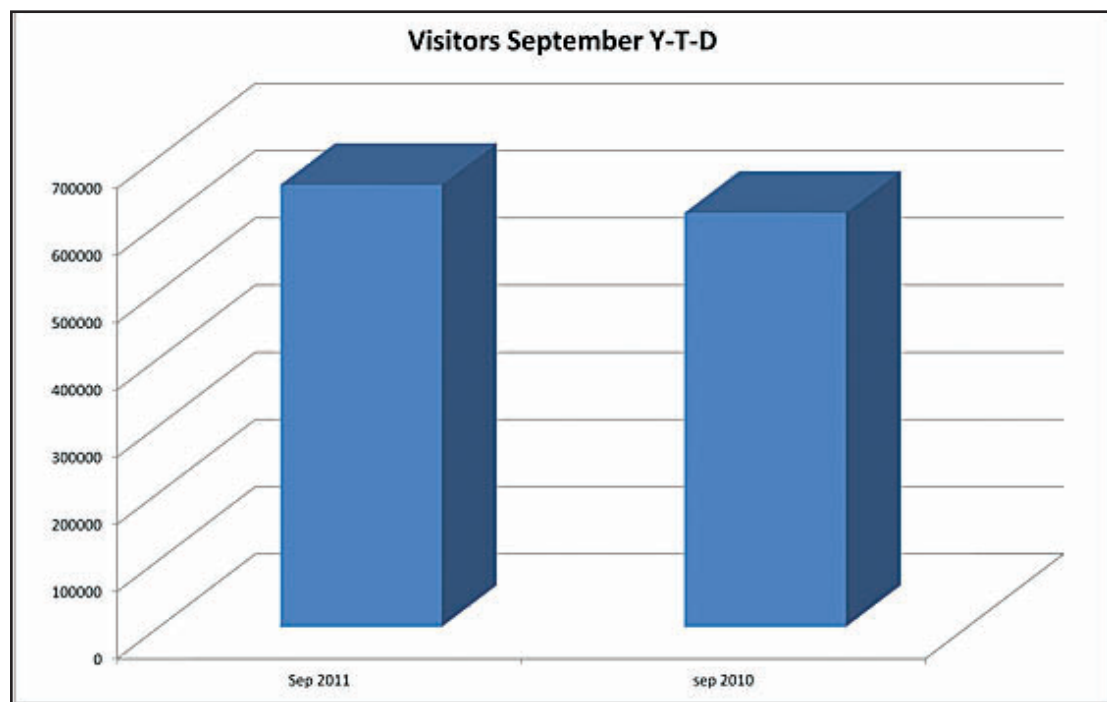
The "briefing teams" include officials from various government agencies who "are well-versed in how this case came forward and on the details," the senior State Department official told reporters on

condition of anonymity.

The decision to send the teams, which could travel to other countries, comes as the State Department ordered all its embassies to mobilize their host countries against Iran over the alleged plot.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Wednesday that several countries did not apply sanctions against Iran as strongly as they might

September boasts more spectacular tourism results for Aruba's Tourism



ORANJESTAD -- Historically September has been one of the slowest tourism months for Aruba, with the lowest amount of tourists visiting the island. However, the Aruba Tourism Authority is very pleased to announce that this September was a remarkable month. The amount of visitors to Aruba in the month of September has surpassed the amount received in September 2010. This September 2011 Aruba received a whopping 63,906 visitors, compared to the 58,333 received in September 2010. This represents a growth of 9.55%.

The increase originates particularly from our Latin American market.

Latin America:

The Latin American market has shown a significant increase in tourist arrivals. In the month of September, this region has shown an increase of 36.71%. Every market in the Latin American region has shown an increase with Venezuela in the lead. The amount of visitors from Venezuela increased by 4,457 more visitors, which is equal to 40.97% compared to September of 2010! Next in line is Ar-

gentina with an increase of 146.19%, or 671 more visitors than in 2010. This is followed by Brazil, which promises to be a very strong market. This market also saw a significant increase, namely, 16,28%.

In addition to the natural tendency for growth from the Latin American market, the first edition of the "Aruba Music Explosion" definitely stimulated more visitors to come to Aruba in the third week of September. This obviously contributed greatly to the increase noted.

Visitor arrivals especially from Venezuela doubled in the week of the Music Explosion. In 2010 there were 1576 visi-

tors during that week, whereas for the same week this year 2011 the amount of visitors was 3360!

Not only did Aruba receive an outstanding increase in tourist arrivals during the week of the Music Explosion from the Latin markets, but also significant and priceless media coverage and promotion.

North America:

From North America, which is Aruba's principal market, we have experienced a slight drop of 1.9%. This, we believe is due to the economic difficulties confronting the US market.

Continued on page 5

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A most unique celebration of October 12 at Paseo Herencia Mall



Dulcinea Montiel director of Wayuunaiki



Traditional Anu straw crafts

The nations of the New World observe Columbus Day in various ways, many celebrating the discovery of the western continents and their coloniza-

tion, others paying homage to the people who were displaced by the settlement of these lands, and their struggle to maintain their identity and



The Yoena Dance

Jesus Javier Arias and his family, as special guests as they and the audience enjoyed an enlightening program regarding the native tribes of his nation, in particular, the Wayuu.

A dance troupe from the Venezuelan Institute for Culture and Cooperation performed the typical Yoena dance, garbed in contemporary interpretations of traditional embroidered and beaded Wayuu dresses and headwear. Their faces were adorned with the spirals that signify the beginning and the end of the cosmos vision of the Wayuu.



Wayuu headress and face decoration

culture.

"Día de la Raza" as it is known in many Latin American countries has become "International Day of Solidarity with Indigenous People," as history has exposed Columbus' immediate realization of how easily the Native Americans who welcomed him so hospitably could be enslaved and subjugated and their subsequent decimation by conquistadors and colonists.

Paseo Herencia Marketing Director Candy Rasmijn was proud to welcome the Venezuelan Consul to Aruba, Dr.

morate landmark moments for the community, such as the birth of a boy and his marriage day.

It was a colorful and edifying evening for audience members originating from various nations of the New World, and Paseo Herencia particularly expresses their gratitude to Tamara, Glori-



Indian women still pursue the traditional crafts

ana, Rixio and Eduard for their efforts in organizing the show and the Consul, Dr. Arias, for his enthusiasm in sharing this aspect of Venezuela's indigenous population on their special day.

By Rosalie Klein



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Rutte says Zorreguieta debate "premature"

THE HAGUE - Premier Mark Rutte does not want to go into the question of whether the father of Princess Maxima can be present at the coronation of Willem-Alexander.

Jorge Zorreguieta was agriculture minister in the Argentine regime of the dictator Videla. For this reason, he was not allowed to be present in 2001 when his daughter Maxima married the Dutch Crown Prince.

Labour (PvdA) said this week that Zorreguieta could not be present when Willem-Alexander takes over his mother's throne either. The Socialist Party (SP) and left-wing Greens (GroenLinks)

backed the PvdA.

Rutte does not however wish to take any position now. Because it is not known when the change of monarch will take place, the premier termed the discussion 'untimely'. He indicated that a cabinet will deal very carefully with this question when it appears.

Last year, Rutte had already said at one point that Zorreguieta could be at the coronation as far as he was concerned. He was at the time responding to PvdA leader Job Cohen, who had in fact proposed this. Now however, the PvdA is thus opting for the contrary position

US wants Mexico aid to

US wants Mexico aid to combat cartels to cover wider plots

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Senior US officials said yesterday they wanted to ensure financial aid being sent to Mexico to combat drug gangs could also be used foil plots like that involving Iran this week.

"Obviously we want to ensure that the support, the equipment, the assistance, the cooperation that we are providing to and with the government of Mexico could also address this sort of threat," William Brownfield, assistant secretary of state for counter-narcotics, told a congressional hearing.

"What we obviously have to do, and are doing, is assessing the nature of our pro-

grams, the organizations we are working with... to ensure that they are better able to address this sort of threat in the future," he said.

US authorities on Tuesday accused two Iranians of plotting to assassinate the Saudi Arabian ambassador to Washington, and hiring a drug cartel member who was in fact a US informant to carry out the killing for \$1.5 million.

Brownfield told lawmakers that the high level of cooperation between US and Mexican agencies through the drug trafficking-focused Merida Initiative was key to uncovering the plot.

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, head

of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, however told the hearing that US agencies need to change their approach to the Mexican gangs.

"We must stop looking at the drug cartels today solely from a law enforcement perspective and consider designating these narco-trafficking networks a foreign terrorist organizations," she told the hearing.

Republican congressman Connie Mack, who heads the House subcommittee on Latin America, backed that approach and argued "if you are unwilling to identify the problem correctly, you are unable to put policy forward to combat it."



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Cas Animal Cont'd Kiki's motto: "Don't give up on that dog!"

Those who have never enjoyed the love and devotion of a canine companion perhaps cannot truly understand how much they give and how little they ask in return. What is even sadder than a neglected animal that protects the home and is always ready to return a thousand fold the slightest bit of affection from its master, is how often some owners unthinkingly decide to put down a dog that could be saved with some care; they are far more resilient than many would imagine.

One of the newest additions to the almost 80 dogs living in the home of Kiki Arndt, founder of Foundation Cas Animal, is an excellent example.



Julian was found on the street, hairless, with twisted legs from lack of vitamin D and B, and an eye that needed to be removed, and must have been causing the dog quite some pain.

Kiki found Julian about one month ago, and after a good cleaning up, regular feedings and treatment for the anemia caused by tick disease, he was ready for his eye operation. He had one broken leg, which has healed up nicely, and all his

legs are straightening out with a proper diet. The vet predicted he would be "out of it" for at least a week after the operation, but Julian was up and lively the very next day, eager to return to his new home.

Our "after" picture shows Julian with his coat coming in nicely, and Kiki described him as looking like a "cinnamon dusted donut" when it first started growing back. "He is a very smart dog," she observes, "after only two days he responded to his name. He was extremely timid when I first brought him into the shelter, but now he stands up for his place against the other males, and he adores playing with the young puppies." Julian is a relatively young dog, perhaps 18 months old, and will be neutered in another week or two. He is a fine example of how well a dog can bounce back, when many would not consider them worth saving. Kiki hopes someone will adopt him; if not, he will be a permanent resident of her no-kill facility.

You too can help Kiki in rescuing Aruba's stray, abandoned and abused dogs and cats by calling her at: 565-2130 or 742-8732 to make a donation or report a stray or injured dog, as she maintains an Animal Ambulance to rescue them. Her expenses for feeding all the animals she has taken in are astronomical, as well as her veterinary bills, and donations can be made by paying on her account at the Contreras Clinics in Shaba or Savaneta, as well as directly to the bank ac-



hair growing back and eye removed

count of Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. If you wish to adopt a dog, Kiki will assist you in the process, as it is much easier to return to the U.S. with an Aruban dog than you might think. If not one of the many cute puppies she has needing a good home, than perhaps a lovable stray you may have befriended on the beach or streets.

Donations also go towards the realization of a proper facility on land which Kiki has already been awarded by the government. It is designed to comfortably house over 200 dogs plus cats and other animals, with an on-site clinic.

You can follow our series of articles about Cas Animal and become a fan on Facebook.

by Rosalie Klein

Photo shoot of Grimaldi and Tartarina on Aruba



Aruba is known worldwide for its beautiful beaches and crystal clear waters; the owners of Grimaldi, the winning horse at the recent horse competition, Interpaso 2011, are well aware of this. While on island they took advantage of the stunning backdrops to stage a photo session with the intention to use the best photos for a poster.

According to one of the owners, Anibal Campagna, the poster will be circulated around at the Mundial de Confepaso event to take place next month in Puerto Rico.

They choose the beach at Arashi to get the best wave effect and Gramaldi was let

loose to allow him to enjoy the water in a natural way.

Special attention was put on the horse's face and its muscular body. When the poster is used to promote Gramaldi Aruba will certainly be in the spotlight, as well.

At the same time, another Interpaso winner, Taratina, was allowed to enjoy the beach for some exceptionally shots.

Because Grimaldi is white and Tartarina black, the photo session gave the impression that it was for a Black & White ad.

The photos already are on Face Book and receiving quite some enthusiastic response.

Local artist can now make claim to Kiosks on the wharf area



ORANJESTAD -- Minister Otmar Oduber has implemented a number of changes on the Aruba wharf area, which he claims makes the experience of the cruise visitors much more pleasant. He arranged to have all the kiosks repaired and properly arranged as well as a perfectly regulated tour bus system.

This way we are able to demonstrate to our visitors something of the culture and friendliness and cordiality of our people, according to the minister of tourism.

In addition to the above, the Minister has also instituted the Carubbian Festival in San Nicolaas. Every Thursday our visitors are able to mingle with the locals and can savor cultural, artistic aspects of Aruba. They are also able to savor our local dishes and the customs and history of the island.

Now, the attention is directed toward the kiosks on the wharf. These kiosks have been colorfully repainted and given a typically Aruban appearance. The intention is to make these kiosks available to our local

artists who can use them commercially for the sale of their crafts to our visitors.

One cardinal requirement for obtaining the use of a kiosk is that the person requesting one must be an Aruban born national. This person must also be registered with the Chamber of Commerce and all products for sale must be products made in Aruba and must be considered truly local products.

Every artist or artisan who desires the use of a kiosk on the wharf must register between now and October 17th until 5:00pm. They can send an email with their name and telephone number to s.lee@aruba.com, or call telephone 582-4900 ext. 117. The contact person is Sue-Ann Lee of the Ministry of Tourism, Transport and Labor.

Everyone who registered and qualifies based on the stipulated requirements, will be called in to give a demonstration of their products during the Carrubian Festival where the selection for obtaining a kiosk will take place.

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September boasts more spectacular tourism results for Aruba's Tourism

Continued from page 1

The dire economic situation has caused American vacationers to be more cautious spenders. The Mid Atlantic, Western, South-East and Mid-Western regions registered a decrease in tourist arrivals, while the North-Eastern region saw an increase. The Canadian market grew by 27.41% compared to 2010.

Europe:

The European market also saw a slight drop of 0.64%. Despite the slight drop in Europe, the Italian market continues to grow and grew in September by 86.38% which is 184 more visitors. This increase can be attributed to the charter flights from Milan to Aruba, which began in the month of December of last year. From the Scandinavian countries there was an increase



of 21.98%.

The Dutch market (Holland), England, Germany and Belgium showed a decrease in the month of September compared to that of September 2010.

Aruba welcomed during January to September 2011 a whopping total of 658,083 visitors, which represents an increase of 6.75% compared to the same period last year 2010. The amount of visitors last

year during the period January to September was 616,441 visitors who came to Aruba.

Obviously, ATA is extremely happy with the results mentioned above. They indicated that they are succeeding to raise the amount of arrivals in the crucial slow months. Their efforts are also geared at raising the quality of visitors and not so much on the quantity. Their vision is not to increase the number of rooms, but to keep these to a minimum. As soon as they can achieve an adequate occupancy in all months of the year, the island will not be able to grow in quantity any further. Hence the growth at that stage will be primarily on quality which will provide the island with an abundance of income for the tourism industry here.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Al Gore 'cheers' Wall Street protesters

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Former US vice president turned climate-change activist Al Gore threw his support behind Occupy Wall Street yesterday, calling it a first step towards fixing a democracy in crisis.

"From the economy to the climate crisis, our leaders have pursued solutions that are not solving our problems. Instead they propose policies that accomplish little," he wrote on his blog (blog.algore.com).

"With democracy in crisis, a true grassroots movement pointing out the flaws in our system is the first step in the right direction. Count me among those supporting and cheering on the Occupy Wall Street movement."



Al Gore

Under the blog was a link enabling readers to donate funds to the protesters in New York who are challenging the influence of global corporations on politics and finance.

Gore served as vice president from 1993 to 2001 under Bill Clinton, then remained in

the public spotlight through his environmental activism, including a starring role in the Oscar-winning documentary "An Inconvenient Truth."

He shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Jailed ex-president Fujimori hospitalized in Peru

LIMA (AFP) - Former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori was hospitalized yesterday after falling out of bed in a prison where he is serving a sentence for human rights violations, according to his family and his lawyer.

Fujimori, 73, suffered a cut on his ear that required minor surgery, according to his son Kenji Fujimori.

The former leader, who is also suffering from cancer, needs observation for a possible brain injury suffered in the fall, according to his son, who is a lawmaker.

His lawyer Cesar Nakazaki said the former president "took a hard fall," and blacked out for a few minutes before being taken to hospital where he underwent tests.

The lawyer said a scan showed no neurological damage.

National Penitentiary Institute director Jose Luis Perez,



who visited Fujimori at the hospital, said he was in "stable" condition.

Fujimori has had cancerous lesions on his tongue for years, but his detractors say his illness is being exaggerated as a ploy to get out of prison and flee the country.

Fujimori, Peru's president from 1990-2000, traveled to Japan in the final days of his presidency in the midst of a massive corruption scandal, then resigned via fax from a Tokyo hotel in late 2000. His daughter, legislator Keiko Fujimori, made an unsuccessful run for president this year.

Storms leave 26 dead in Central America, Mexico



MEXICO, Manzanillo: Cars are seen stranded in a flooded street in Manzanillo, Colima State, Mexico

GUATEMALA CITY (AFP) - At least 15 people died in Guatemala as heavy rains battered Central America, while five more were killed in Mexico after a hurricane struck the Pacific coast, officials said yesterday.

Including deaths in nearby Nicaragua and El Salvador, the regional death toll stood at 26.

In Guatemala, state emergency coordinator David De Leon said 48,000 people had been forced from their homes by torrential rains which have drenched the nation over the past four days.

De Leon said 10 deaths were confirmed and that officials were in the process of confirming five additional fatalities. Local media said the Guatemala death toll was between 20 and 25.

The rainfall caused landslides on several major highways in the Central American country.

El Salvador recorded two deaths and Nicaragua saw at least four deaths.

In Mexico, at least five deaths which were recorded in the wake of Jova, which roared ashore as a strong category two hurricane Tuesday before weakening to a tropical storm.

An estimated 4,500 people were forced from their homes in the area including Jalisco state.

The death toll rose to five yesterday as officials recovered the body of a man swept away by a river in Jalisco.

Earlier, authorities said a 21-year-old woman and her five-year old daughter were killed in a landslide in the small community of Melaque, and two others died in Tomatlan.

Jova lost its hurricane status Wednesday as it dumped torrential rain across much of Mexico's Pacific coast, triggering flooding and power cuts.

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Occupy Wall Street fears eviction from NY park

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Anti-Wall Street protesters feared eviction yesterday from the Manhattan square that is the cradle of their anti-corporate movement after city authorities insisted on booting them out for a clean-up.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg visited the demonstrators in person on Wednesday evening to ask them to temporarily leave the square early today and reassure them that they would be allowed back.

But representatives of owners Brookfield Property descended on the square yesterday morning with police and dogs, handing out notices to remind protesters that camping and use of tents and other structures was forbidden.

About 600 people have been camping out in Zuccotti Park more or less permanently since the occupation was launched almost one month ago on September 17, becoming the epicenter of a movement that has spread to cities across America.

The occupation has shown more and more signs of permanence: food stalls have sprung up, an infirmary, an information desk, a video room, even a library.

Brookfield now says enough is enough and set a deadline of 7:00 am today to begin leaving the area.

"Conditions in the park have deteriorated, presenting health and cleanliness issues which must be addressed," the owners said in a statement.



UNITED STATES, New York : A member of the NYPD looks over demonstrators with 'Occupy Wall Street' protest at Zuccotti Park before they start cleaning up their belongings October 13, 2011 the morning after Mayor Bloomberg gave a message to Occupy Wall Street protesters that the park needs to be cleaned. (AFP PHOTO)

The park "will be re-opened to the public for lawful uses consistent with our regulations," the statement added, fueling protesters' fears that something more sinister is afoot.

Brookfield insisted that they would not be kicking people out permanently as long as their laws were respected.

"We intend to clean the park in sections so that one third of the park will be cleaned at a time while the remaining portions of the park can continue to be used," the statement said.

"It will be necessary for the public to leave the portion of the park being cleaned while cleaning operations are underway, and to remove any possessions."

Protesters denied there were any health dangers and said they were fully capable

of looking after themselves.

"We have sanitation. We have cleaned since the beginning, they should let us do that," said Cynthia Villareal.

Although the sit-in demonstration numbers only a few hundred people, swelling to several thousand during marches, Occupy Wall Street has struck a powerful note among US politicians and the media.

Smaller sister demonstrations have popped up in cities across the country.

Bloomberg has pledged to let protesters stay at Zuccotti Park in lower Manhattan's financial district so long as they respect the law, but the fledgling movement has already had several run-ins with the authorities.

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French prosecutors say too late to prosecute Strauss-Kahn

PARIS (AFP) - French prosecutors dropped a sex assault probe into former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn yesterday, saying he admitted trying to kiss the alleged victim but the case was too old to prosecute.

Tristane Banon, a 32-year-old author, claims the politician tried to rape her in 2003, but prosecutors said evidence suggested sexual assault -- which has a shorter statute of limitations -- rather than attempted rape.

"Mr Strauss-Kahn admitted trying to kiss Miss Banon," a judicial official told reporters. "He does not admit sexual assault, but that's his opinion. The magistrate for his part said it could be regarded as a sexual assault."

The Paris prosecutor's office said in a statement: "Even if a prosecution for attempted rape could not be

launched for lack of sufficient proof, facts that could be qualified as sexual assault were admitted."

Henri Leclerc, one of Strauss-Kahn's lawyers, confirmed the details of the ruling, but insisted: "He admitted no violence of any kind. Mr Strauss-Kahn tried to kiss her. He was refused, and did not insist, allowing her to leave."

Under French law sexual assault is a lesser charge than attempted rape and cannot be prosecuted if a complaint is made more than three years after the alleged incident. The state prosecutor has therefore halted his probe.

Banon had already said she would attempt to bring a private prosecution if the prosecutor's office refused to take the case, in which case an independent investigating magistrate will have to reconsider the evidence.

Khamenei: West trying to spread 'Iranophobia'

TEHRAN (AFP) - The West is trying but failing to instill "Iranophobia," Iran's supreme leader said yesterday in remarks that appeared to be prompted by, but did not directly address, US allegations of a thwarted Tehran-sponsored assassination plot.

"The repeat of ineffective

and stupid methods by hapless and distracted policy-makers in the West (to spread) Iranophobia will again bear no result," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in an army base in the western city of Kermanshah, the official IRNA news agency reported.

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Health & Living

South Africa tightens rules for foreigners to make families

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - In the wake of Madonna's adoptions in nearby Malawi, and a commercial surrogacy boom in India, South Africa is laying out stricter rules for foreigners looking to make families here.

Last month a court in Pretoria set out guidelines for foreigners looking to hire a surrogate mother in South Africa. In 2010, a new child welfare law made it tougher for foreigners to adopt.

The overall message is that children born in South Africa are better off in their own country, and foreigners need to show a commitment to living here if they want to use South Africans to help them make a family.

In the case last month, a Dutch and Danish couple won permission to use a surrogate. In the ruling, the court in Pretoria laid out guidelines that will now direct how future cases will be resolved.

Surrogacy has been legal in South Africa since 2006, and the constitution guarantees equal protection for gays, which courts have routinely cited in allowing same-sex couples to adopt or use surrogates.

For foreigners, the ruling essentially means that they must intend to stay in South Africa long-term. The couple involved in the case intends to settle here permanently, the court ruling said.

South African law specifically prohibits commercial surrogacy. The court cast a wary eye on India, where the practise was allowed in 2002, creating an "assisted reproductive" industry that in 2008 was valued at \$450 million a year.

This has attracted families from wealthier countries who hire Indian surrogates for far less than the process would cost in their home nations -- something South Africa is keen to avoid.

The court warned that "particularly in countries such as ours with deep socio-economic disparities and prevalence of poverty, that the possibility of abuse of underprivileged women is a real and ever-present danger".

Every surrogacy agreement in South Africa requires approval from a court that must find the arrangement was reached "for altruistic rather than commercial reasons", the court said.

Surrogate mothers can only receive money to pay for expenses related to the pregnancy, such as health insurance or maternity clothes, said Jennifer Currie, founder of the Baby-2 Mom agency, which specialises in egg donations.

The rules have also been tightened for foreigners seeking to adopt.

Since a new child welfare law was passed last year, foreigners are required to live in

South Africa for five years before they can adopt -- even though South Africa has 1.9 million AIDS orphans.

Most of those children are absorbed into extended families or communities and are not housed in institutions. Only about 600 are considered "legally adoptable", with just 200 children legally adopted last year, according to official figures.

The new law was drafted as Madonna was adopting her second child in Malawi, stirring controversy about wealthy foreigners taking home African children.

Health Tip:

Coping With a Pet Allergy

-- Just because you or your child has a pet allergy doesn't mean you can't have a house-pet, the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology says.

The academy offers these suggestions to better cope with a pet allergy:

- Do your best to avoid kissing and hugging pets.
- Keep your bedroom and upholstered furniture off-limits to pets.
- Give your pets a weekly bath, and ask a non-allergic friend or family member to regularly brush them outdoors.
- Ask your veterinarian about a well-balanced diet for pets, which can minimize dander.
- Vacuum with a micro-filter or double bag, and use a HEPA air cleaner at home.
- Minimize carpeting and rugs in your home, as they attract dander.



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German satellite hurtles towards Earth: officials



The ROSAT Satellite

BERLIN (AFP) - A German satellite around the size of a car is speeding towards Earth, officials said this week, due to re-enter the atmosphere later this month but with little idea where fragments could land.

The x-ray observatory, named ROSAT, is expected to return to Earth between October 20 and 25, travelling at a speed of around 28,000 kilometres (17,000 miles) per hour, the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) said in a statement.

"The latest studies reveal that it is possible that up to 30 individual pieces weighing a total of 1.6 tonnes may reach the surface of the Earth," the DLR said in a statement on its website.

"The time and location of re-entry cannot be predicted precisely," added the agency, citing fluctuations in solar activity for the uncertainty.

The satellite could re-enter the atmosphere three days before or after this range, the DLR said, stressing there was very little danger to humans.

Last month, a bus-sized US satellite that hurtled unpredictably toward Earth crossed over Africa and the northern Atlantic before plunging into the Pacific Ocean off California, NASA said.

There were no sightings or reliable accounts of damage as the six-tonne Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite (UARS) fell from the sky.

Sci-Tech

NASA to launch weather-climate satellite Oct 27

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A satellite that aims to help weather forecasters predict extreme storms and offer scientists a better view of climate change is being readied for launch this month, NASA said.

The 1.5 billion dollar National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System Preparatory Project (NPP) is the first to measure both short and long term changes in weather and climate, the US space agency said.

"This is really the first mission that is designed to provide observations for both weather forecasters and climate researchers," said Jim Gleason, NPP project scientist.

The SUV-sized satellite will carry five instruments to study temperature and water in the atmosphere, how clouds and aerosols affect temperature, and how plants on land and in the ocean respond to environmental changes.

The satellite is one of 14 Earth observation missions currently being managed by NASA. Project managers said they hope it will operate for about five years.

The timing could not be better, after a year in which the United States saw 10 major and costly weather events -- from tornadoes to hurricanes -- according to Louis Uccellini, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers

for Environmental Prediction.

"2011 has been the year of the billion-dollar weather disasters," Uccellini said, listing off a series of 10 fires, floods, tornadoes and hurricanes that cost the United States one billion dollars each.

"We expect to improve our forecast skills and extend those forecast skills out to five to seven days in advance for hurricanes, severe weather outbreaks and other extreme weather events," he said.

He added that the satellite is carrying infrared and microwave instruments that are "basically equivalent to a slight improvement over what we are using with the European satellites."

However, since NPP will circle the Earth at a height of 512 miles (820 kilometers) and will be in a polar orbit, it will help fill in data gaps left by European weather observatories, he said.

The European Space Agency last year launched CryoSat-2, the third so-called "Earth Explorer" satellite put into orbit by the agency in just over a year.

The Gravity field and Ocean Circulation Explorer (GOCE) mission launched in March 2009, and the Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity (SMOS) mission followed in November.

All three missions are designed to study the effect of human activity on Earth's natural processes

BlackBerry service 'has been restored worldwide'

BlackBerry service has been restored worldwide after several days of outages, the head of the company that makes the smartphones said Thursday.

"All of the services are back up globally," Research in Motion (RIM) founder and president Mike Lazaridis told a press conference.

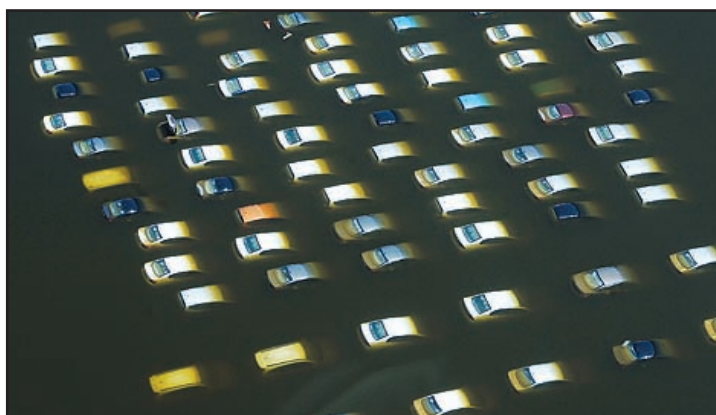
Lazaridis earlier used a video message to apologize to the millions of BlackBerry users worldwide who were starved of instant access to emails and messaging over four days.

Services in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, India, the United States, Canada and Latin America had been affected.

Speaking on the fourth day of disruptions, which the firm has blamed on a backlog of emails caused by an initial technical failure, Lazaridis said: "I apologise for the service outages this week. We've let many of you down."

RIM said Wednesday that an initial technical failure had prompted a build-up of messages in its network, triggering a cascade of problems around the world that affected many of the firm's 70 million subscribers.

The technical failure reportedly started at the company's British hub in Slough, a town west of London.



THAILAND (AFP) This aerial picture shows cars submerged in floodwaters at a Honda car factory outside the ancient Thai capital of Ayutthaya, north of Bangkok on October 11, 2011. Massive floods have left 500 people dead across Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, officials said, as authorities stepped up efforts to reach victims of the unusually heavy monsoon rains.



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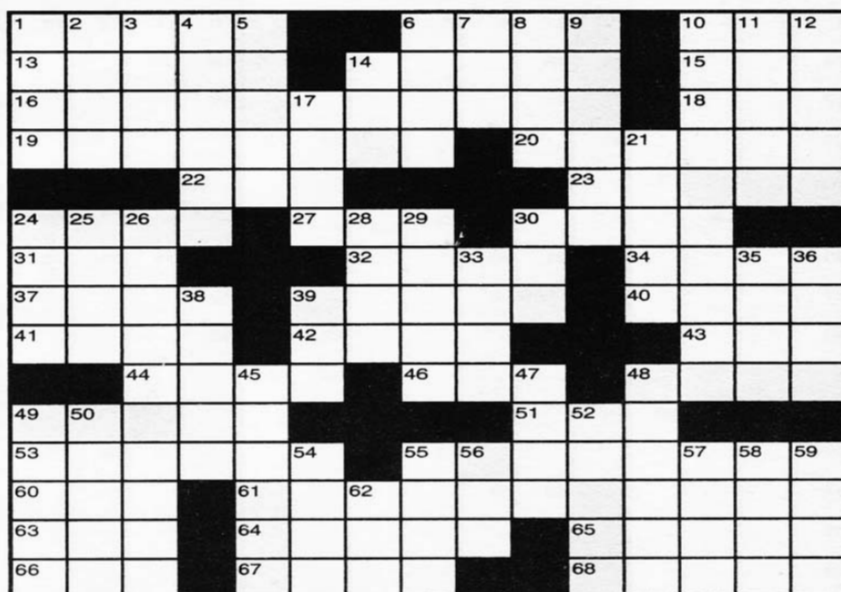
ON THE HILL

ACROSS

1. Picture puzzle
6. Linen department purchase
10. Taunt, to a scarecrow
13. Gladiators' venue
14. "Once — time..."
15. Raw metal
16. Lawmaker's boss
18. Wire measure
19. Respected
20. Abashes
22. Cleopatra's pet
23. Get one's — up
24. Last president with facial hair
27. "— Devil" (Streep-Barr film)
30. Rebutter's contraction
31. New Haven Ivy Leaguer
32. Yokel team
34. Have — (get to work on)
37. Delta mud
39. Like an unknowing stare
40. Josh Mostel's dad
41. Recipe direction
42. Wiggly
43. Home for a French fish
44. Author Schulberg
46. Trump — Mahal
48. Abbreviation in Cold War-era atlases
49. Tickle
51. Holm of "Lord of the Rings"
53. Chaste
55. Gilbert's "HMS Pinafore"

DOWN

1. Atalanta's contest
2. Libido, to a shrink
3. Like a clothes-hanger jimmy
4. Remove from office
5. Fills full
6. "Bob the Builder" scarecrow
7. Cultivate
8. Miller and Jillian
9. "Misty" singer
10. House groups
11. It follows Pisces
12. "Trainspotting" author Irvine
14. Salt Lake City student
17. Mischievous tots
21. Actress Lucie
24. 1979 role for Nastassja
25. Dismounted from a horse
26. Buy time, on the Senate floor
28. White Rabbit's entrance
29. Glorify
30. Well filler
33. "Only Time" artist
35. Gershwin and Levin
36. Cook's or grand
38. Smoot target
39. Part of B&B
45. Caesar's Palace employee
47. Actress Clayburgh
48. Like Serbia and Croatia, once
49. Be of value to
50. Islamic religious center
52. San Antonio landmark
54. Italian author Primo
55. Aspect
56. Apply
57. One of the Corleones
58. Maintain
59. "Untouchable" Eliot
62. Boy next-door's date

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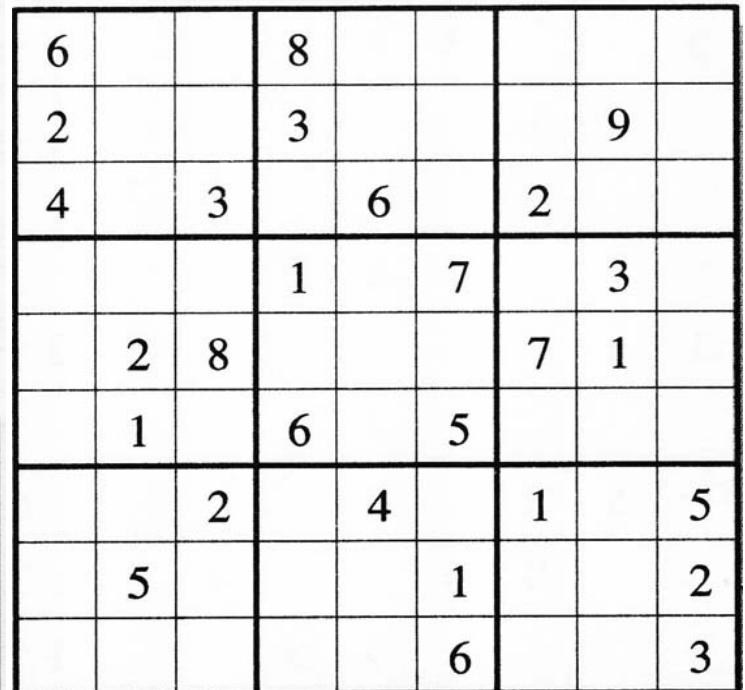
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	2	4	8	9	5	7	6	1
2	7	6	1	3	8	9	5	4
4	5	1	8	7	6	2	3	9
8	3	7	5	8	9	1	4	6
9	1	4	6	7	8	2	5	3
3	8	5	1	2	4	7	9	6
1	8	2	6	9	5	3	7	4
7	6	9	7	1	3	8	5	2
5	3	8	2	4	1	6	9	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Finance

EU's Barroso thanks Slovakia for eurozone bailout approval

SOFIA (AFP) - European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso thanked Slovakia yesterday for finally granting its approval to a crucial rescue fund for debt-laden members of the eurozone.

"I want to use this opportunity to congratulate Slovakia," Barroso said after Bratislava approved the revamp of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF).

"This is an important decision for all of us in Europe," he told journalists in Sofia, where he was taking part in a meeting of the centre-right European People's Party.

"I never had any doubt that Slovakia would support it because it is in the interest of that country, in the interest of all euro-area countries, and in the interest of the European Union as a whole."

The vote in the Slovakian parliament, which removed the final hurdle to expanding the

European bailout fund to 440 billion euros (\$600 billion), came however at a price, toppling Prime Minister Iveta Radicova's center-right government and setting the stage for early elections.

Barroso congratulated Radicova yesterday "because she has fought for what she believed was important for her country and for Europe. This is the kind of leadership that we need in Europe."

The EFSF rescue mechanism was set up in May 2010 after Greece was first bailed out to save it from default. Slovakia was then the only eurozone member to abstain from the first Greek rescue package.

After eurozone leaders decided the EFSF needed more lending capacity and tools this year, Slovakia still refused to approve the revamped rescue mechanism and a first failed attempt to push the EFSF through parliament on Tuesday toppled

Radicova's government.

The Slovak scare prompted Barroso earlier yesterday to call for an end to the eurozone's unanimous decision-making process.

"We need comprehensive solutions now! The time to act in Europe is now! We cannot postpone important decisions," Barroso said yesterday evening in Sofia.

He expressed hope that a European Council and eurozone summit on October 23 would agree to "decisive action concerning Greece" and policies to "enhance the euro area's backstops against the crisis, strengthen our banking system, speed up growth, enhance policies and reinforce economic governance."

Germany to use secret bank list to track fraudsters

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany will prosecute fraudsters using stolen data it bought about its citizens who secretly deposited assets in HSBC bank in Luxembourg, the German Financial Times reports today.

The German state of North-Rhine Westphalia bought for about three million euros a CD-ROM some months ago containing information on the bank accounts held by Germans in Luxembourg, said the newspaper.

Prosecutions by the treasury could start next month.

Germany has in recent years been engaged in a crusade against tax evasion using banking data from Lichtenstein and Switzerland, putting its ties with these countries at risk.

Last year, Berlin recovered 1.6 billion euros from fraudsters using stolen data on Germans who had placed assets in banks in these two countries, according to news reports.

A CD-ROM was bought for 5.0 million euros in 2008, leading to the arrest of Deutsche Post ex-chief Klaus Zumwinkel, and his conviction on tax evasion.

In 2009, German authorities turned their sights on lists of Swiss bank clients, also obtained at a price.

The German Constitutional Court has given the go-ahead for the use of such data to track fraudsters.



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Gap to triple stores in China by end-2012

NEW YORK (AFP) - Gap, the US casual apparel retailer, unveiled plans yesterday to nearly triple the number of its stores in China by the end of its 2012 business year as it looks outside of North America to grow sales.

Gap Inc., whose portfolio of brands includes Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy, outlined a strategy to increase total sales to counter lackluster demand in North America.

In China, where Gap opened its first store in November 2010, the company said it would expand from about 15 stores at the end of this year to about 45 by the end of fiscal 2012, in late January 2013.

The first Gap flagship store in Hong Kong is set to open in a matter of weeks, the company noted.

Gap also said it would open its first Old Navy store, its lower-priced brand, outside of North America, in Japan within the next 18 months.

The company's first Banana

Republic flagship in Paris is slated to open later this year.

The San Francisco-based company reaffirmed its target of increasing sales growth outside of North America and online by about 30 percent by the end of its 2013 fiscal year.

The company said it would reduce overall store square footage in North America by 10 percent by 2012, compared with 2007 levels.

And it is focusing on Gap stores, planning to shrink their number to 700, a decline of 34 percent from end-2007.

Gap has about 3,100 company-operated stores and about 200 franchise stores in 36 countries and online orders shipped to over 90 countries.

Retail sales outside North America increased 16 percent in the first half of the year, while revenue from e-commerce business increased 19 percent across its entire portfolio, the company said.

A week ago Gap reported September net sales were flat compared with last year.

US ex-hedge fund manager gets 11 years jail

NEW YORK (AFP) - Disgraced star Wall Street hedge fund manager Raj Rajaratnam was sentenced yesterday to 11 years behind bars in the heaviest US sentence for insider trading, although far below what prosecutors had sought.

New York federal Judge Richard Holwell also ordered the Sri Lankan-born founder of the Galleon Group hedge fund to pay a fine of \$10 million and restitution of \$53.8 million.

But he said Rajaratnam's poor health was the reason for refusing the prosecution's request that the former trader be sentenced to as much as 24 years in prison.

Holwell revealed for the first time publicly that Rajaratnam, 54, is suffering from "advanced diabetes leading to imminent kidney failure."

The judge added he was taking into account the fallen Wall Street trader's philanthropy, saying Rajaratnam's "response to and care for the

less privileged go considerably beyond the norm."

The judge also insisted that while "insider trading is insidious" it "poses a different danger to Enron-like fraud" or the kind of pyramid scheme run by Wall Street conman Bernard Madoff, robbing thousands of people of their savings.

Rajaratnam will remain free until November 28, when he must surrender himself.



SPAIN, Madrid: Environmentalists and farmers protest against the reform of EU's farming support program, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), in front of the headquarters of the European Parliament in Madrid, on October 13, 2011. The European Commission moves to overhaul its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) by capping subsidies and tying them to environmental concerns. (AFP PHOTO)

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 10/11/2011	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.720	1.740	1.760
Britain	GBP	2.730	2.780	2.840
Switzerland	CHF	1.9808	1.9880	1.9960
Netherlands	EUR	2.4227	2.4448	2.4694
Sweden	SEK	0.2577	0.2649	0.2729
Denmark	DKK	0.3188	0.3260	0.3340
Norway	NOK	0.3056	0.3128	0.3208
Japan	JPY	229.69	231.78	234.11
(per 10,000)				
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YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

ARTS	HAT	DORIS
MORT	BATOR	EVIL
OMAR	ALONE	FACE
SEMI	LONGFELLOW	
NIL	SERA	
LONGHORN	RITES	
ORO	STEIN	CELLO
ADOS	SAGES	SLID
NESTS	PERES	ENE
RERUN	LONGINGS	
UNIT	ATM	
LONGSTREET	ARAB	
ALOG	RANGE	GILA
REAL	EDDAS	ELAN
ASHIE	EION	SEIND

Jackson could have been saved, doctor's trial told



Dr. Alon Steinberg gestures while speaking from the witness stand during Dr. Conrad Murray's trial in the death of pop star Michael Jackson in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Lawyers for Michael Jackson's doctor dropped a claim that the star may have drunk a killer drug overdose himself, as a senior medic said the King of Pop could have been saved.

Cardiologist Alon Steinberg blasted Conrad Murray, on trial over Jackson's 2009 death from an overdose of propofol, saying the doctor should simply have called 911 as soon as he saw the star had stopped breathing.

"It's basic knowledge in America, you don't have to be a health care professional, that when someone is down you need to call 911 for help," Steinberg told jurors in gripping testimony.

Murray says he left Jackson for two minutes to go to the bathroom on June 25, 2009, and returned to find him apparently lifeless.

"When you monitor a patient, you never leave their side, especially after giving propofol. It's like leaving a baby that's sleeping on your kitchen countertop," said Steinberg.

Murray is accused of giving Jackson an overdose of propofol while trying to help

him sleep. His lawyers have claimed Jackson was a desperate addict who gave himself a fatal extra dose while Murray was out of the room.

But in a surprise move before the jury came into court, one of Murray's lawyers announced they were dropping the claim that Jackson could have drunk a killer overdose.

The 58-year-old doctor has admitted to giving Jackson 25 milligrams of propofol around 10:40 am on the day he died, after the star had been awake all night, despite being given a series of doses of other less powerful sedatives.

The theory that Jackson could have drunk more propofol, which the star referred to as "milk," while Murray was out of the room has been countered by evidence that no propofol was found in his stomach.

In a police interview played at the trial, Murray recounted how he had been treating Jackson for about two months as the star rehearsed in LA for a series of comeback shows in London.

He was giving him propofol every night to help him sleep, but became concerned that Jackson was addicted to the drug, and three nights before his death, he began trying to wean him off of it.

When he found the star lifeless upon his return, Murray began trying to revive him, but instead of calling 911, he called Jackson's personal assistant, who then called a security guard, who eventually called 911 at 12:20 pm.

Steinberg, a senior member of the California Medical Board, noted that paramedics arrived at the house only six minutes later -- a period of time that could have saved Jackson's life if they were called immediately.

The trial in Los Angeles Superior Court is expected to last five weeks, until the end of October. If Murray is convicted, he faces up to four years in jail.

Rio's open-armed Christ celebrates 80 years



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Arms wide open above Rio de Janeiro, Christ the Redeemer marked its 80th anniversary Wednesday as the fifth largest statue of Jesus in the world and a symbol of the 2016 Olympic city.

Hundreds of worshippers are expected to celebrate the anniversary, along with a vigil, concerts and an eight-meter (26-foot) cake, a fitting tribute in Brazil, the biggest Catholic country in the world with 130 million faithful.

"The gift to Christ is the world's most beautiful city," Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes told reporters. "Christ, with open arms -- this is how we welcome

those who come visit us."

Celebrations began late Tuesday with a youth vigil and an air show.

Inaugurated on October 12, 1931, the 38-meter (125-foot) statue was built and designed by Brazilian architect Heitor da Silva Costa. But it was a Frenchman of Polish descent who sculpted the Christ statue's head and hands.

With its panoramic view of the city from atop the 710-meter (2,330-foot) Corcovado hill in the Tijuca Forest, the site has become a must-see destination for over a million visitors each year.

Pope John Paul II was the

first pope to bless the city at the Christ statue's feet in 1980. In March, US President Barack Obama made a family trip there during an official visit to Brazil.

It was declared a historical monument in 1973 and in 2007, the statue was listed as one of the new seven wonders of the world.

"It's the most amazing thing I have ever seen," a child said after visiting the statue with a school group.

A Spanish couple posed nearby for a traditional picture in front of the Christ.

"I was so emotional that I almost cried when I saw him," said Ana Maria Perez, who was visiting Brazil for the first time with her husband Julian after 45 years of marriage.

Her husband was impressed by the "spectacular" statue and its "gaze full of emotion, forgiveness."

"We are a little closer to the heavens, on top of this wonderful mountain," said Nurten Bigakli, a 48-year-old who traveled from Turkey. She held the hands of friends Inci and Selma to "pray for our families, our children."

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with



town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only

construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management de-

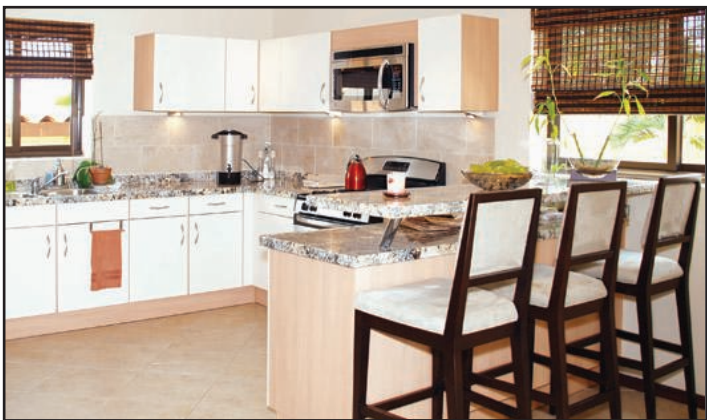


the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260

a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an



immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality

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Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger



Aaron and Manager Marc Anthony

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S. franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet



cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

Sport

Rooney banned for three Euro 2012 matches



NYON (AFP) - England striker Wayne Rooney was on Thursday banned for three matches by UEFA for his red card against Montenegro, a decision which will rule him out of the group stages of Euro 2012. Manchester United star Rooney was punished for his 74th-minute sending off in the 2-2 draw in Podgorica last Fri-

day in England's final qualifier when he kicked out at Miodrag Dzudovic.

"The UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body has today handed down a three-match suspension to England forward Wayne Rooney following his dismissal during the UEFA Euro 2012 qualifier in Montenegro last Friday," said a UEFA statement.

The Football Association is yet to decide whether or not to appeal.

England had been hopeful that the 25-year-old would only serve a one-game ban after referee Wolfgang Stark admitted Rooney's acceptance of his red card could work in his favour.

Rooney's sending off had reopened all the old question marks about the striker's temperament, echoing his 2006

World Cup quarter-final dismissal for a similarly reckless foul on Portugal's Ricardo Carvalho.

England coach Fabio Capello said Rooney, who has 73 caps, had been guilty of a "silly" mistake, and had already revealed that he plans to use next month's friendly against world champions Spain at Wembley as an opportunity to plan for the player's absence.

Capello admitted that Rooney's behaviour was indefensible.

Capello had also warned Rooney that he couldn't expect to stroll back into the squad after serving his suspension.

The Italian added earlier this week: "I need to find the solution. And if we find that solution, he needs to work to return to the first 11."

NBA impasse headed to mediation

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The NBA and its locked-out players will take their contract dispute to a federal mediator as they try to resolve differences that have already cost the first two weeks of the season.

George Cohen, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), announced that he will oversee negotiations between the NBA and the NBA Players Association, beginning next Tuesday in New York.

Cohen, who tried to resolve the NFL's labor dispute months before it eventually ended, said he had been in contact with representatives on both sides of the basketball talks "for a number of months".

"I have participated in separate, informal, off-the-record discussions with the principals

representing the NBA and the NBPA concerning the status of their collective bargaining negotiations," Cohen said in a statement issued by the Washington-based FMCS.

Negotiations between NBA owners and players stalled on Monday, and the league announced it was calling off the first two weeks of its regular season, which had been scheduled to start on November 1.

Stumbling blocks in the talks have been a salary cap system -- with owners favoring a hard cap without the cur-

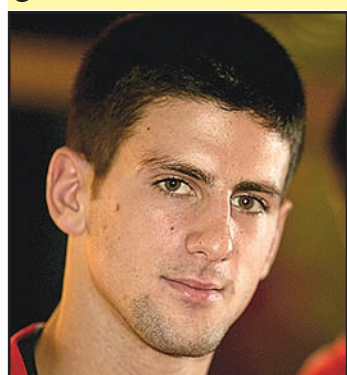
rent loop-holes available -- and the division of revenues.

Cohen oversaw talks between NFL owners and players for 16 days in February and March that didn't yield an agreement.

When that mediation broke off on March 11, the union disbanded, players sued owners in federal court, and the league locked out players.

Talks later resumed under a different, court-appointed mediator and a new NFL collective contract was reached in August.

Djokovic assured of year-ending top spot



PARIS (AFP) - Novak Djokovic will finish the year as world number one after closest rival and world number two Rafael Nadal was knocked out of the Shanghai Masters in the third round on Thursday.

Djokovic, the Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open winner in 2011, took top spot for the first time in his career when he deposed Nadal as

All England Club champion in July.

The Serb, who was forced to skip the Shanghai tournament because of a back injury, is the 16th player to take the year-ending top spot since the world rankings were introduced in 1973.

Djokovic is the first player other than Roger Federer (2004-07, 2009) or Nadal (2008, 2010) to finish number one since American Andy Roddick in 2003.

He will be officially crowned as the year-end number one at a special trophy presentation at the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals in London, where he will be competing for a fifth straight year.

The tournament takes place from November 20-27.



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Cruz shines as Rangers rally to beat Tigers



Nelson Cruz #17 of the Texas Rangers runs the bases after his three-run home run.

DETROIT (AFP) - The Texas Rangers scored four runs in the 11th inning Wednesday to beat the Detroit Tigers 7-3 and seize a commanding three-games-to-one lead in their

Major League Baseball semi-final playoff series.

The Rangers are now one victory away from winning the best-of-seven American League Championship Series and returning to the World Series.

The Rangers, who fell to San Francisco last year in US baseball's championship showcase, will try to finish off the Tigers in game five on Thursday.

Nelson Cruz delivered both defensively and offensively.

His laser throw to Rangers catcher Mike Napoli at home plate in the eighth inning prevented Detroit's Miguel Cabrera from scoring from third base, preserving a 3-3 tie that eventually sent the contest to extra innings.

In the top of the 11th inning, Napoli hit a go-ahead single and Cruz then sealed it with a three-run home run -- his fourth homer of the series -- to stretch

the Rangers' lead to 7-3.

Cruz, whose 11th inning grand slam secured the victory in game two, became the first player in playoff history to hit two extra-inning homers in the same series.

But Rangers manager Ron Washington wasn't surprised to see him come through on defense as well.

"For you guys that haven't seen Nelson every day, he's capable of doing exactly what he's doing," Washington said. Detroit's Brandon Inge belted a solo home run in the seventh to knot the score at 3-3.

In the eighth, with one out and nobody on, the Rangers intentionally walked Cabrera, the American League batting champion who had driven in two runs with a double in the third inning.

Victor Martinez followed with a single and Cabrera reached third.

Delmon Young then lofted a ball to right field that Cruz caught and fired to Napoli, who held on to the ball as Cabrera crashed into him and got the out.

Aruban runners go to Toronto, Washington, New York and Miami ("Run for your Heart")

This year, once again the runners of the "run for your heart group" have prepared themselves thoroughly to participate in the various year-end marathons.

The main characteristic of this group of runners is that it is a varied group of Arubans and non-Arubans, who train together with the emphasis on social contacts, sportsmanship and running for your good health. Everybody who feels good with this "lifestyle" is welcome to participate in the training.

Hans Ruiter, Susan Ruiter, Jurgen van Schaijk, Michel La Haye, Esmeralda Hendriks, Johnny Cheng, Eugene Martis, Frank Dubbeld en Bart Kool will participate in the marathon of Toronto (October 16).

Patrick Haime, Wilfred Ras en Carlo Mansur will go to the marathon of Washington (Oc-

tober 30). Koos Veel and Suzette Geerman will go to the marathon of New York (November 6).

The majority of this group will participate in the well-known ING marathon of Miami on Sunday January 29, 2012.

Participation in a marathon is very demanding and requires quite some discipline, willpower and commitment, especially during the months of training prior to the marathon. During the week the participants often have to get up at 4 AM for training. But training together is very motivating. For this reason the Arubans hope for a run of success.

Of course also the island Aruba will be promoted, considering the team's outfit with ARUBA prominent in the front.

Berkman, Ellsbury win comeback awards

NEW YORK (AFP) - St. Louis outfielder Lance Berkman and Boston's Jacoby Ellsbury were named baseball's 2011 Comeback Players of the Year on Thursday.

Ellsbury, who played only 18 games in 2010 because of injuries, rebounded with a season in which he posted career highs in nearly every offensive category to earn the American League award.

The Red Sox outfielder hit .321 with 32 home runs, 105 RBIs and 39 stolen bases.

Ellsbury, 28, was the first Red Sox player and one of four Major Leaguers -- the most in a single season -- to record 30 homers and 30 stolen bases.

Berkman was given the honor in the National League, where his effort this season have helped the Cardinals to the league championship series.

In 2010, Berkman hit a combined .248 with 14 home runs and 58 RBIs between the Houston Astros and New

York Yankees.

This year the 35-year-old has displayed the outstanding form shown earlier in his career, batting .301 with 31 home runs and 94 RBIs.

Berkman joined pitcher Chris Carpenter, the 2009 winner, as the second Comeback Player of the Year winner in three years for the Cardinals.

MLB.com's 30 team beat reporters voted on the awards.

Breakfast
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

<p>EGG DISHES *2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese *Scrambled with ham, cheese, onions, green pepper, tomato, mushroom *Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, tomato, mushroom All egg dishes are served with a choice of : white or whole wheat baguette or sliced toasted bread.</p> <p>*PASTECHE HORNA *CRÊPES *SWEET CRÊPES *BAGEL with cream cheese, smoked salmon, boiled egg</p>	<p>LOCAL BREAKFAST *Pan grandi (di rama) or baguette *KERRIE-KERRIE (FISH) *CONCH *FISH EGG *SHRIMPS *FISH FILLET *FISH CAKE *CHICKEN SOUP</p> <p>*FRUIT SALAD & YOGHURT *HOT BEVERAGES *COLD BEVERAGES</p>
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Cardinals edge Brewers for series lead



Rafael Furcal #15 of the St. Louis Cardinals turns a successful double play over Ryan Braun #8 of the Milwaukee Brewers on a ball hit by Prince Fielder #28 during Game Three of the National League Championship Series.

ST. LOUIS (AFP) - The St. Louis Cardinals scored four runs in the first inning on Wednesday, enough for a 4-3 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers in their Major League Baseball semi-final playoff series.

With the victory, the Cardinals took a two-games-to-one lead in the best-of-seven National League Championship Series.

Albert Pujols, Jon Jay and David Freese each had RBI doubles and St. Louis scored another run on a double-play ground-out as the Cardinals pummeled Milwaukee's ace starting pitcher Yovani Gallardo for a 4-0 lead in the first frame.

"When you make mistakes like we did the first inning,

they're going to get their hits, they're going to score some runs," Brewers manager Ron Roenicke said.

St. Louis starting pitcher Chris Carpenter struggled as well, but four Cardinals relief pitchers -- Fernando Salas, Lance Lynn, Marc Rzepczynski and Jason Motte -- combined for four perfect innings to seal the victory.

"It's not going to work very often that you can put four zeros against their offense," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said.

Carpenter allowed Milwaukee to put runners on base in every inning against him. He lasted just five innings and almost half of his 89 pitches were balls. He allowed six hits and three runs.

Two of those runs came in the second inning, one on a sacrifice fly by Gallardo.

Milwaukee's Mark Kotsay then led off the third inning with a home run that narrowed the gap to 4-3. Then the Cardinals' bullpen stepped up.

"You never know how it's going to work out," Carpenter said. "That's what's so fun about this game and that's what's so fun about pitching. Our guys did a fabulous job."

"I think regardless of whether we're winning or losing the series, we recognize what's at stake," Milwaukee star Ryan Braun said. "We're going to prepare ourselves just like we've been doing and expect to win tomorrow and hopefully get off to a good start."

MLB playoff schedule

American League

DETROIT V TEXAS

Rangers 3, Detroit 2 (Rangers lead 1-0)

Tigers @ Rangers (PPD)

Texas 7, Detroit 3

(Rangers lead 2-0)

Detroit 5, Texas 2

(Rangers lead 2-1)

Texas 7, Detroit 3

(Rangers lead 3-1)

Thu- Oct 13: Texas @ Detroit

Sat- Oct 15: Detroit @ Texas

Sun - Oct 16: Detroit @ Texas

National League

ST LOUIS V MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee 9, Cardinals 6

(Brewers lead 1-0)

Cardinals 12, Milwaukee 3

(Tie 1-1)

Cardinals 4, Milwaukee 3

(Cardinals lead 2-0)

Thu - Oct 13: Milwaukee @ St. Louis

Fri - Oct 14: Milwaukee @ St. Louis

Sun - Oct 16: Cardinals @ Milwaukee

Mon - Oct 17: Cardinals @ Milwaukee



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